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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,000	06/13/2001	Shougo Sato	109790	3311

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

HAMDAN, WASSEEM H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/879,000

Applicant(s)

SATO, SHOUGO

Examiner

Wasseem H Hamdan

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NW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: .

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Ex parte Quayle

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:
 - a. Claim 1 recites the limitation "at least each developing unit being assembled in each process cartridge" in lines 23 and 24. It is unclear what applicant is defining as the "process cartridge". There are similar problems with claims 15 and 19.
 - b. In claim 1, lines 23-24, the recited language does not appear to make sense. It appears that applicant intends to mean, "wherein each developing unit is assembled in a corresponding one of said process cartridges."
 - c. Claims 15 and 19 have similar problems as mentioned in section "a" above.
 - d. In claims 3, lines 4-5, the recited language does not appear to make sense. It appears that applicant intends to mean, "each LED array facing a corresponding one of said electrostatic latent image bearing bodies."
 - e. Lines 4-7 of claim 8 are unclear. It appears that, for proper grammar, the lines should read, "a plurality of cleaning units that each collect developing agent remaining on a corresponding one of the electrostatic latent image bearing bodies, each cleaning unit being disposed externally of one of said corresponding process cartridges."
 - f. In claim 8, line 5, it appears that, --a—should come before, "corresponding."

Many of the claims have similar problems such as mentioned above in sections correct as necessary. Appropriate correction is required.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Examiner's Statement Of Reason For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-21 are allowable.

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined components and or elements for a color image forming device including a plurality of developing units each including a developing agent bearing body disposed in confrontation with a corresponding one of the plurality of electrostatic latent image bearing bodies and housing therein developing agents of different colors, at least each developing unit being assembled in each process cartridge, each process cartridge being detachably positioned at a side facing the first side and moved in an attachment/detachment direction toward and away from the first side for attachment and detachment of the process cartridge with respect to the pair of side frames (taking in consideration the corrections that the applicant is coming up with to overcome the claim objection as set forth in this action above).

Regarding claim 10, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined components and or elements for a color image forming device including a plurality of developing units each comprising a developing agent bearing body disposed in confrontation with a corresponding one of the plurality of electrostatic latent image bearing bodies and housing therein developing agents of different colors, and a layer thickness regulation member in contact with the developing agent bearing body and positioned below the developing agent bearing body for

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regulating a thickness of a layer of the developing agent formed thereon., the developing agent comprising a non-magnetic component type developing agent (taking in consideration the corrections that the applicant is coming up with to overcome the claim objection as set forth in this action above).

Regarding claim 18, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined components and or elements for a color image forming device including a plurality of developing units each comprising a developing agent bearing body disposed in confrontation with a corresponding one of the plurality of electrostatic latent image bearing bodies and housing therein developing agents of different colors and a plurality of the developing units being positioned below the discharge tray but positioned above the supply tray (taking in consideration the corrections that the applicant is coming up with to overcome the claim objection as set forth in this action above).

Regarding claim 21, the prior art of record does not teach all the combined components and or elements for a color image forming device including a secondary image transfer device positioned immediately below the intermediate image transfer member for transferring an image from the intermediate image transfer member onto an image recording medium; and a reverse mechanism being connected to a downstream of the fixing device and to an upstream of the secondary image transfer device by way of a reverse print pathway extending below the intermediate image transfer member (taking in consideration the corrections that the applicant is coming up with to overcome the claim objection as set forth in this action above).

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Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art of records does not teach all the combined steps, and combined components and or elements as discussed above in the "examiner's statement of reasons for allowance".

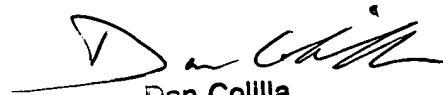
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wasseem H Hamdan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2166. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (first Friday off) 6:30 AM- 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Andrew H Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-0956.


Wasseem H. Hamdan

December 4, 2003


Dan Collila
Primary Examiner
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